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Political Information: Indications of Anti-Soviet Sentiment, Shanghai

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- Shanghai Soviet Russian-language dailies are taking sides in a dispute which may split the Shanghai Soviet community into two distinct camps. V. A. Chilikin's Novosti Daya is maintaining the official Soviet attitude toward the present "war of nerves" between the East and the West. It blames Washington for the tension, but does not believe that war is near at hand. Certain Shanghai Soviet journalists and intellectual groups, on the other hand, insist that war is inevitable and imminent. Shanghai Soviet citizens believe that Chilikin initiated the dispute upon orders from above in order to bring to light those Soviet citizens not subscribing to the official stand. They are awaiting a clarification of Moscow's policy by General Roshchin, new Soviet Ambassador to China.
- 2. A group of the Russian clergy in Peiping, headed by monk archpriest (sic) Cabriel, is urging Archbishop Victor to sever relations with the Church in Moscow and to return to the jurisdiction of the Russian emigre Metropolitan Anastasi. If Victor should take such an action, he would be received into the fellowship by Archbishop John, although the Shanghai emigre clergy and leaders oppose his reception.
- Two recent actions of the Chinese High Court possibly indicate official Chinese anti-Soviet feelings:
  - (1) The decision that the Soviet Citizens Association must give up the premises occupied by the Soviet School. A year ago the SCA spent huge sums of money remodelling these premises, and is now faced with the problem of securing other premises. Despite SCA's poor financial condition it does not expect to receive an appropriation from the Soviet Government.
  - (2) The official request by the Chinese High Court that the Soviet clergy leave the famous local St. Nicolas Church, which was erected by White Russians in memory of the late Tsar Nikolai. This would leave only one pro-Soviet church in Shanghai, in reality a private house at Wayside, but the Court has also issued an eviction order for these premises.

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These two actions have tended to discredit Yakovlev and Chibunovsky, Soviet lawyers who were instrumental in obtaining the use of the St. Nicolas Church for Soviet Russians. Both men appealed to the Soviet authorities for support but were advised to return to the USSR. Since they were unwilling to do this, they sought entrance into the local emigre community, but were rejected as they are among the most disliked Soviet citizens. Yakovlev, believing his fortune to be in danger if he prolongs his stay in Shanghai, has applied for a visa to enter Venezuela; Chibunovsky is attempting to enter Hongkong.

4. International tension has caused local White Russian emigre circles to increase their vigilance against infiltration by Soviet citizens. Despite accusations by many emigres that their present leaders are negligent and have shown tolerance of pro-Soviet elements in the Russian Emigre Association, a simple but thoroughly secure measure has been effected for controlling important files and documents. M. G. Yakovkin, whose integrity is above suspicion, has sole responsibility for these records. Even official members of the REA Executive Committee must obtain his approval before gaining access to the documents.



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